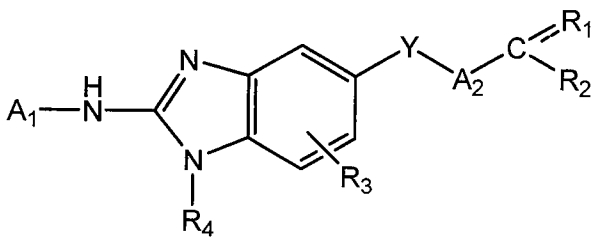
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-74. (Canceled)

75. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting Raf kinase activity in a human or animal subject suffering from a Ras/mitogen-activated protein kinase signal pathway-mediated cancer disorder selected from the group consisting of melanoma, breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, thyroid cancer, bladder cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, myeloid leukemia, and villous colon adenoma, comprising administering to the human or animal subject a composition comprising an amount of a compound of the formula (II) effective to inhibit Raf kinase activity in the human or animal subject:



(II)

wherein Y is O;

A_1 is substituted monocyclic carbocyclic aryl;

A_2 is ~~unsubstituted heteroaryl~~ pyridyl;

R_1 is taken together with R_2 to form a substituted C_{3-14} heteroaryl group, wherein the C_{3-14} heteroaryl group contains only carbon and nitrogen atoms as ring atoms; wherein, the dashed line represents a single or double bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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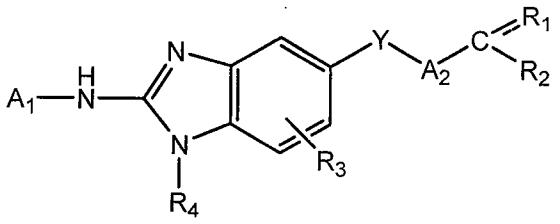
76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75 which further comprises administering to the human or animal subject at least one additional agent for the treatment of cancer selected from irinotecan, topotecan, gemcitabine, 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, carboplatin, cisplatin, taxanes, tezacitabine, cyclophosphamide, vinca alkaloids, imatinib, anthracyclines, rituximab and trastuzumab.

77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting Raf kinase activity in a human or animal subject suffering from a Ras/mitogen-activated protein kinase signal pathway-mediated hormone dependent cancer disorder selected from the group consisting of breast cancer and prostate cancer, comprising administering to the human or animal subject a composition comprising an amount of a compound of the formula (II) effective to inhibit Raf kinase activity in the human or animal subject:



(II)

wherein Y is O;

A_1 is substituted <u>monocyclic carbocyclic</u> aryl;

A_2 is ~~unsubstituted heteroaryl~~ <u>pyridyl</u>;

R_1 is taken together with R_2 to form a substituted <u>C_{3-14}</u> heteroaryl group<u>, wherein the C_{3-14} heteroaryl group contains only carbon and nitrogen atoms as ring atoms</u>; wherein, the dashed line represents a single or double bond;

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R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

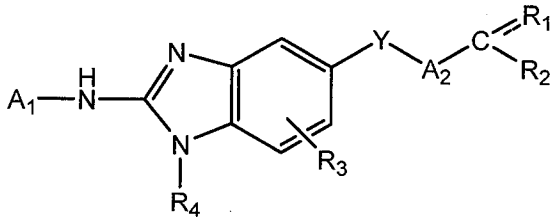
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 78 which further comprises administering to the human or animal subject at least one additional agent for the treatment of cancer selected from irinotecan, topotecan, gemcitabine, 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, carboplatin, cisplatin, taxanes, tezacitabine, cyclophosphamide, vinca alkaloids, imatinib, anthracyclines, rituximab and trastuzumab.

81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting Raf kinase activity in a human or animal subject suffering from a Ras/mitogen-activated protein kinase signal pathway-mediated hematological cancer disorder, comprising administering to the human or animal subject a composition comprising an amount of a compound of the formula (II) effective to inhibit Raf kinase activity in the human or animal subject:



(II)

wherein Y is O;

A_1 is substituted monocyclic carbocyclic aryl;

A_2 is ~~unsubstituted heteroaryl~~ pyridyl;

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R_1 is taken together with R_2 to form a substituted C_{3-14} heteroaryl group, wherein the C_{3-14} heteroaryl group contains only carbon and nitrogen atoms as ring atoms; wherein, the dashed line represents a single or double bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82 which further comprises administering to the human or animal subject at least one additional agent for the treatment of cancer selected from irinotecan, topotecan, gemcitabine, 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, carboplatin, cisplatin, taxanes, tezacitabine, cyclophosphamide, vinca alkaloids, imatinib, anthracyclines, rituximab and trastuzumab.

84-88. (Canceled)

89. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 88~~ any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein R_4 in formula (II) is methyl.

90-92. (Canceled)

93. (Previously presented) A method of any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein A_1 in formula (II) is selected from the group consisting of chlorophenyl, fluorophenyl, bromophenyl, iodophenyl, dihalophenyl, nitrophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, alkoxyphenyl, dialkoxyphenyl, dialkylphenyl, trialkylphenyl, alkylthiophenyl, trifluoromethylphenyl, acetylphenyl, sulfamoylphenyl, biphenyl, cyclohexylphenyl, phenyloxyphenyl, dialkylaminophenyl, alkylbromophenyl, alkylchlorophenyl, alkylfluorophenyl, trifluoromethylchlorophenyl, trifluoromethylbromophenyl, trifluorophenyl,

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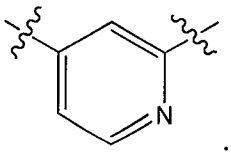
(trifluoromethyl)thiophenyl, alkoxybiphenyl, hydroxyphenyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, 4-amino(imino)methylphenyl and (1,4'-bipiperidin-1'-ylcarbonyl)phenyl.

94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 93, wherein A_1 in formula (II) is 4-bromophenyl.

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 93, wherein A_1 in formula (II) is trifluoromethylchlorophenyl.

96-97. (Canceled)

98. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 96~~ any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein A_2 in formula (II) is



99. (Canceled)

100. (Currently amended) A method of any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein R_1 is taken together with R_2 in formula (II) to form a group selected from substituted pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, ~~thiazolyl,~~ indolyl, imidazolyl, ~~oxadiazolyl,~~ tetrazolyl, pyrazinyl, triazolyl, ~~thiophenyl, furanyl,~~ quinolinyl, purinyl, ~~benzothiazolyl,~~ benzopyridyl and benzoimidazolyl.

101. (Currently amended) A method of ~~any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83~~ claim 100, wherein R_1 is taken together with R_2 in formula (II) to form a substituted imidazolyl group.

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102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the imidazolyl group is substituted with a halo C_{1-6} alkyl group.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the imidazolyl group is substituted with a trifluoromethyl group.

104-107. (Canceled)

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the cancer is melanoma.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the cancer is a carcinoma of the lungs, pancreas, thyroid, bladder or colon.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the cancer is myeloid leukemia.

111. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the cancer is villous colon adenoma.

112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82 wherein the hematological cancer disorder is chronic myelogenous leukemia.

113. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein A_1 in formula (II) is selected from the group consisting of ~~phenylalkyl, pyridylalkyl, pyrimidinylalkyl,~~ heterocyclylcarbonylphenyl, heterocyclylphenyl, heterocyclylalkylphenyl, chlorophenyl, fluorophenyl, bromophenyl, iodophenyl, dihalophenyl, nitrophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-~~chlorophenyl, alkylbenzoate,~~ alkoxyphenyl, dialkoxyphenyl, dialkylphenyl, trialkylphenyl, ~~thiophene-2-carboxylate,~~ alkylthiophenyl, trifluoromethylphenyl, acetylphenyl,

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sulfamoylphenyl, biphenyl, cyclohexylphenyl, phenyloxyphenyl, dialkylaminophenyl, alkylbromophenyl, alkylchlorophenyl, alkylfluorophenyl, trifluoromethylchlorophenyl, trifluoromethylbromophenyl, ~~2,3-dihydroindenyl,~~ tetralinyl, trifluorophenyl, (trifluoromethyl)thiophenyl, alkoxybiphenyl, ~~indolyl, 2,3-dihydroindolyl, 1-acetyl-2,3-dihydroindolyl,~~ hydroxyphenyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, 4-amino(imino)methylphenyl, imidazolylphenyl, ~~phenylimidazolyl, pthalamido, benzophenone,~~ anilinyl, anisolyl, ~~quinolinonyl, phenylsulfonyl, phenylalkylsulfonyl,~~ pyrimidin-5-ylphenyl, quinolidinylphenyl, furanylphenyl, ~~pyrrolidin-4-ylpyridinyl,~~ and (1,4'-bipiperidin-1'-ylcarbonyl)phenyl.

114. (Currently amended) A method of any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein the variables in formula (II) are as follows:

A_1 is a substituted ~~carbocyclic aryl~~ phenyl group;

A_2 is ~~unsubstituted~~ pyridyl;

R_1 is taken together with R_2 to form a substituted C_{3-14} heteroaryl group, wherein the C_{3-14} heteroaryl group contains only carbon and nitrogen atoms as ring atoms; and

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

115. (New) The method of Claim 114, wherein A_1 is selected from the group consisting of chlorophenyl, fluorophenyl, bromophenyl, iodophenyl, dihalophenyl, nitrophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, alkoxyphenyl, dialkoxyphenyl, dialkylphenyl, trialkylphenyl, alkylthiophenyl, trifluoromethylphenyl, acetylphenyl, sulfamoylphenyl, biphenyl, cyclohexylphenyl, phenyloxyphenyl, dialkylaminophenyl, alkylbromophenyl, alkylchlorophenyl, alkylfluorophenyl, trifluoromethylchlorophenyl, trifluoromethylbromophenyl, trifluorophenyl,

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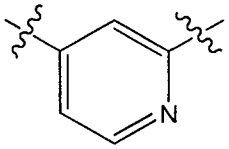
(trifluoromethyl)thiophenyl, alkoxybiphenyl, hydroxyphenyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, 4-amino(imino)methylphenyl and (1,4'-bipiperidin-1'-ylcarbonyl)phenyl.

116. (New) A method of any one of claims 75, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 83, wherein the variables in formula (II) are as follows:

A_1 is a substituted phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, indenyl, indolyl, isoxazolyl, indazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, napthyl, 9H-fluoren-1-yl, or furanyl;

A_2 is



;

R_1 is taken together with R_2 to form substituted pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thiazolyl, indolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazinyl, triazolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, quinolinyl, purinyl, benzothiazolyl, benzopyridyl, or benzoimidazolyl; and

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

117. (New) The method of Claim 116, wherein A_1 is substituted phenyl.

118. (New) The method of Claim 117, wherein A_1 is selected from the group consisting of chlorophenyl, fluorophenyl, bromophenyl, iodophenyl, dihalophenyl, nitrophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, alkoxyphenyl, dialkoxyphenyl, dialkylphenyl, trialkylphenyl, alkylthiophenyl, trifluoromethylphenyl, acetylphenyl, sulfamoylphenyl, biphenyl, cyclohexylphenyl, phenyloxyphenyl, dialkylaminophenyl, alkylbromophenyl, alkylchlorophenyl,

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alkylfluorophenyl, trifluoromethylchlorophenyl, trifluoromethylbromophenyl, trifluorophenyl, (trifluoromethyl)thiophenyl, alkoxybiphenyl, hydroxyphenyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, 4-amino(imino)methylphenyl and (1,4'-bipiperidin-1'-ylcarbonyl)phenyl.

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